

Uniform Return and Remittance System Advisory Committee

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The Uniform Return and Remittance System Advisory Committee met in the Parlor of the Club House at the Country Club of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at Ten o'clock A.M. (10:00 a.m.).

Members present were: Mr. Mark West, Chairman, Mr. Roy Austin, Ms. Cynthia Bridges, Ms. Cynthia Boudreaux and Mr. Henri Louapre.

Those absent were: None

Chairman West declared the meeting duly convened and introduced the committee members to those in attendance.

After discussion, it was decided that future agenda items would be submitted and set ten (10) days in advance of future meetings.

Ms. Bridges informed the committee members that they would be entitled to expense reimbursements in accordance with current state travel regulations.

The Department will provide a recording of all future meetings and locations of each as required.

After discussion concerning an extension of the operative date for electronic filing, that was to have been January 1, 2005, it was noted that Legislative action for such would be required. Ms. Bridges indicated a shortage of time relative to the filing of a bill for the upcoming session and questioned if this session would be germane to such issues. It was moved by Ms. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Austin and carried that should the program not be up and running prior to the Regular Legislative Session of 2006, that the committee seek a date change.

After discussion, Mr. West requested that the 2nd Thursday of each month be established as the panel's regular meeting date. With the month of July being the exception, all such dates were established as meeting dates. The meeting for July will be the preceding Wednesday, which is July 13, 2005. The meeting locations will be announced at a later date. Considerations will be given for the meetings to coincide with the LATA and SEATA Conferences.

Mr. West presented the committee with a recommended Mission Statement. After review and discussion of the presented statement, it was moved by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Boudreaux and carried that the statement be adopted as an Official Statement of the Uniform Return and Remittance System Advisory Committee.

After discussion relative to the usage of the current available software programs, it was determined that a survey of respective parishes would be in order. Mr. West appointed himself and Ms. Boudreaux to a sub-committee for that purpose. The sub-committee will contact Mr. George Marretta and Mr. Roger Bergeron, Chairpersons of the LATA Legislative Committee, to request a list of the exemptions applying to local sales taxes. The general purpose of the request will be to assist in developing the survey to local governments. Mr. Louapre agreed to assist and work with the sub-committee as needed.

During a discussion relative to timelines and expected accomplishments, it was recommended that in future meetings that the “Experts” be invited to attend and join in the discussion process relative to the same issues.

Upon discussion of a Validation Procedure between Collectors and the Committee it was suggested that a sub-committee be established for that purpose. Upon activation of such committee, it was recommended that Mr. Raymond Tangney, Mr. Roger Bergeron, Mr. George Marretta, Ms. Donna Andries and other such personnel be considered as active members.

Mr. Raymond Tangney, a representative of the Department addressed the Committee relative to the issue of taxpayers filing Occupancy Tax via URR.

Several items for discussion were established for the May meeting. Those items were: a) survey & validation committee members and b) Mr. Austin will review examples of state filings other than Louisiana.

Mr. King Woolf , a representative of Revenue Recovery Group, posed a question relative to the intended method for public comment. While Mr. West indicated that public comment would be invited, there would be an element of time since the committee would be working from a pre-established agenda. Ms. Bridges suggested that once a site and web-page was established that it would create an excellent avenue for public questions and/or comments.

Being no other public comments and/or agenda items, Mr. West declared that the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at Twelve o'clock (12:00 Noon).

Mark West, Chairman